

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 14, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 23 as follows. Please cancel claim 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A joint formed at a junction between adjacent boards, the joint comprising:

a first board, comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a groove;

a second board joined to the first board, and comprising an upper surface, a lower surface, a tongue, a first equalizing cavity located adjacent to an upper end of a proximal end of the tongue, wherein a distal end of the tongue is smaller than a proximal end of the groove; ~~and~~

a second equalizing cavity, formed by a gap between the proximal end of the groove and the distal end of the tongue; and

further comprising glue disposed in at least one of the first equalizing cavity and the second equalizing cavity.

15. (Currently Amended) A joint formed at a junction between adjacent boards, the joint comprising:

a first board, comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a groove;

a second board joined to the first board, and comprising an upper surface, a lower surface, a tongue, a first equalizing cavity located adjacent to an upper end of a proximal end of the tongue, wherein a distal end of the tongue is smaller than a proximal end of the groove;

a second equalizing cavity, formed by a gap between the proximal end of the groove and the distal end of the tongue, ~~The joint of claim 14,~~ wherein at least one of the first equalizing cavity and the second equalizing cavity extends to the lower surface of the second board.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A joint formed at a junction between adjacent boards, the joint comprising:

a first board, comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a groove;

a second board joined to the first board, and comprising an upper surface, a lower surface, a tongue, a first equalizing cavity located adjacent to an upper end of a proximal end of the tongue, wherein a distal end of the tongue is smaller than a proximal end of the groove;

a second equalizing cavity, formed by a gap between the proximal end of the groove and the distal end of the tongue, ~~The joint of claim 14,~~ wherein the tongue comprises at least one guiding wedge on an upper surface or a lower surface thereof, whereby the at least one guiding wedge contacts an inner surface of the groove.

18. (Currently Amended) A joint formed at a junction between adjacent boards, the joint comprising:

a first board, comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a groove;
a second board joined to the first board, and comprising an upper surface, a lower surface, and
a tongue; and
said first board and said second board defining a gap therebetween; and
a hole, in fluid communication with said gap, said hole having an opening below said groove.

19. (Previously Presented) The joint of claim 18, wherein said hole extends from said joint towards a proximal section of said first or second panel.

20. (Currently Amended) The joint of claim 18, wherein said ~~vent~~ hole extends towards said lower surface of said first or second board.

21. (Previously Presented) The joint of claim 18, wherein said hole is a vent through one of said boards.

22. (Previously Presented) The joint of claim 21, wherein said vent has a terminal end at said lower surface of said board.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling floor boards to form a joint therebetween, the method comprising:

providing:

a first board, said first board comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a groove;

a second board joined to the first board, and comprising an upper surface, a lower surface, and a tongue; and

glue, disposed on at least one of said tongue and said groove;

mating said groove of said first board with said tongue of said second board; and

directing said glue away from said upper surface and towards the lower surface of said boards.